



H.Res. 738 – Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria’s continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 738 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gary Ackerman (D-NY) on October 15, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs but was not considered.

H.Res. 738 is expected to be considered on the House floor on October 15, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 738 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Condemns the campaign of murder, terror, and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Lebanon and establishing a new Lebanese government subservient to the will and interests of Syria and Iran;
- Condemns Syria and Iran for their gross interference in Lebanon’s internal political affairs, and particularly, the selection of a new president, and gross violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions protective of Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence;
- Condemns Lebanese political parties and actors who have allied themselves with Syria and Iran to the detriment of their own country and its national interests;
- Condemns efforts by some Lebanese political figures to obstruct, delay, and impede the legal and established processes of their country for the selection of a new president according to the rule of law;
- Affirms its continued strong support for Lebanon’s democratically-elected government, people and national sovereignty, and its readiness to provide material support;
- Calls on all nations to recognize and support Lebanon’s sovereignty and independence; and

- Urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

BACKGROUND

In February 2005, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, was assassinated by a car bomb. According to a U.N. investigation, the assassination could not have occurred without the involvement of high-level Syrian officials.

Following the assassination, the Lebanese people launched a massive revolt against Syrian interference in Lebanese government affairs. With support from the international community, the revolution forced Syrian military forces to withdrawal from Lebanon for the first time nearly in 30 years.

Syria is on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror. Both Syria and Iran continue to provide weapons and support to terrorist organizations and to meddle in the internal affairs of Lebanon. Numerous anti-Syrian Lebanese politicians have been the target of assassinations, including Antione Graham, who was killed by a car bomb in September 2007.

According to the Lebanese Constitution, a new Lebanese President must be elected by the assembly prior to November 24, 2007.

ADDITIONAL INFO

[State Department Country Profile: Lebanon](#)

[State Department Country Profile: Syria](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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